

App. No.: 10/708133
Filed: February 9, 2004
Conf. No.: 2132

Page 4 of 4

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to correct the running together of words which apparently occurred when the original document was transformed by the electronic filing program. In addition claims 4, 6 and 7 have been amended per the Examiner's kind suggestion. All claims are submitted for reconsideration without further amendment because it is most respectfully submitted that the cited art does not teach or suggest applicant's invention either alone or in combination.

As the Examiner has noted, applicants invention relates to the offset angle specifically determined by the equation embodied in claim 1 and upon which all or the remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly. The Examiner takes the position that determining the optimum offset angle is within the scope of those skilled in the art. It is most respectfully submitted that this is in error.


Of the three primary references relied on by the Examiner, only the Japanese one and Crapo et al disclose a specific offset angle and neither is that claimed. Thus others having more than ordinary skill in the art and attempting to solve the same problem have not obtained the same result. It is submitted that this rebuts the Examiner's position.

As to the rejections of claims 5-8 dealing with the method of attachment, it is again most respectfully submitted that the Examiner's position that this is taught by Berrong et al stretches this reference beyond its teaching. The adhesive lamination of the individual groups is a means of fixing the individual plates together is not a "fastener" as specifically claimed in claim 5 and certainly not a rivet as further defined in claim 6.

In addition it should be noted that the adhesive is not circumferentially spaced. Furthermore it is believed that lacking a basic teaching of this feature the secondary art relied on for the rejection of claims 6-8 is not a substitution one skilled in the art would make.

Therefore the Examiner is most respectfully requested to favorably reconsider his positions.

Respectfully submitted:



Ernest A. Beutler
Reg. No. 19901

Phone (949) 721-1182
Pacific Time